

## **Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Grant Program**

Funding available: LORI Grants are available in amounts from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

### **Background**

The Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) is the Rhode Island state library agency and is supported by funds from the State of Rhode Island and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Support from the IMLS includes a grant from the Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) under the IMLS Grants to States Program. LORI Grants are offered as subgrants of the LSTA grant to the State of Rhode Island and support the overall purposes of the Library Services and Technology Act (see Appendix I).

### **Purpose**

OLIS's LORI Grant Program supports statewide initiatives and projects by distributing LSTA funds through subgrants to public, academic, research, school and special libraries in Rhode Island. Library consortia are also eligible to apply. The LORI Grant program has the benefit of building the capacity of libraries and strengthening library collaboration across library-types and with other organizations. Projects that are collaborations between libraries or between libraries and non-profit community-based organizations that allow the applicant to strengthen the proposal and create a stronger project are also encouraged.

The LORI Grant Program also provides opportunities for Rhode Island libraries to work on innovative, forward-looking projects that can be replicated in other libraries. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that feature new uses of media and technology, that expand the uses of library services or the role of the library in the community, or that demonstrate new models for library service.

### **Priorities**

LSTA purposes provide the foundation for the 2013-2017 OLIS Five Year State Plan for the expenditure of LSTA funds. The four goals of the plan are:

- 1) Facilitate access to and sharing of resources and information in all types of libraries.
- 2) Ensure the provision of library services to people with disabilities.
- 3) Create opportunities for libraries to enhance their capacity to provide services and resources to all Rhode Islanders.
- 4) Increase and enhance the competencies and capacities of librarians, library paraprofessionals, and library trustees through an active program of continuing education.

To advance the achievement of these goals, Rhode Island libraries and library consortia, are encouraged to submit applications to the LORI Grant Program as follows:

- From groups of libraries and other non-profit partners to create an infrastructure that would enable them to provide library services or programs for, to, or among the partners that could not be provided as well by a single partner alone;
- That enhance and expand the functionality of LORI, the statewide library network, by the addition of member libraries or by creating access to previously unavailable resources;
- That employ new technologies to expand access to library collections and services;
- That increase library collections or make unique extant materials freely available to Rhode Islanders and meet demonstrated community needs; or,
- That expand access to library materials or services to people with disabilities.

Priority will be given to innovative projects that create demonstrable and sustainable change in the delivery of library services in Rhode Island. In keeping with the purposes of LSTA, capital expenditures are not eligible for the LORI Grant Program.

The 2013-2017 OLIS Five Year State Plan is available for review on the OLIS web site at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/aboutus/5yplan/>